Developing sporting spirit among children and youth

† 2260. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that children and youth are loosing interest in sports now-a-days;

(b) whether it is also a fact that now-a-days indoor child and youth facilities are gaining popularity in the big cities; and

(c) if so, the measure being taken by the Government to develop a healthy approach in children/youths and society towards sports?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI P. RADHAKRISHNAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The Government is promoting sports awareness amongst youth through various sports schemes meant for sub-junior, junior and senior sportspersons.

With a view to attract the younger generation to take to sports as a career, the benefits of the scheme of "Special Awards to Winners in International Sports Events and Their Coaches" have been extended to the winners of sports events in the sub-junior category also.

Under the scheme of Promotion of Sports and Games in Schools, Government of India provides grant to the State Governments/UT Administrations for organizing inter-school tournaments.

The Government of India also aids the State Governments for development of sports infrastructure. National Sports Federations are assisted for training of sportspersons abroad, participation of their teams in competitive International Championships, engagement of foreign coaches, holding International Tournaments in India, conducting National Championships and for procuring equipment. The assistance is also extended through Sports Authority of India for

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

organizing coaching camps for preparation of teams and for engaging the services of foreign coaches.

In addition, SAI provides regular coaching to youth at its sports facilities in States and Regional Centres.

Decision of BCCI to withdraw from cricket tournaments

2261. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the decision of the Board of Control for Cricket in India to withdraw from participation from major cricket tournaments like the World Cup, Asia Cup and the ICC Knockout Cup because of the refusal of the Government to allow participation in the non-regular venues like Sharjah and Singapore etc.; if so, Government's reaction in this regard;

(b) if so, what is the likely impact on the Indian Cricket for non-participation in major and international tournaments;

(c) whether there is any clear-cut policy or directives in this respect; and

(d) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI P. RADHAKRISHNAN): (a) The Government has not received any formal communication from the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) regarding its decision. The Government has not disallowed participation of Indian Cricket team in major events like World Cup, Asia Cup or ICC Knock Out Tournament.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) The Government has clarified its policy to BCCI that under the prevailing circumstances it would be inappropriate for the Indian team to participate in a two-nation tournament between India and Pakistan at present. The Government has also taken a decision not to play any matches at non-regular venues at least for a period of three years. India will thus continue to play Pakistan in multilateral tournaments at regular venues. However, the permission to play in a